

ROUTINE



Intelligence Information Cable

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GROUP 1
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CITE [REDACTED]

DIST 5 OCTOBER 1972

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI LATE SEPTEMBER 1972

SUBJECT GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM AND VIET CONG PREPARATIONS
IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE IN ANTICIPATION OF A
CEASE-FIRE

ACQ VIETNAM, BIEN HOA (30 SEPTEMBER 1972) [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED]

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SUMMARY: BOTH THE GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM (GVN) AND THE VIET CONG (VC) ARE MAKING CONTINGENCY PREPARATIONS FOR A CEASE-FIRE IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE. THE GVN IS STRENGTHENING ITS TERRITORIAL FORCES AND THE VC ARE INTENSIFYING THEIR PROSELYTING ACTIVITIES. BOTH SIDES HAVE PREPARED LISTS OF INDIVIDUALS TO BE NEUTRALIZED; THE VC BY ASSASSINATION, THE GOVERNMENT BY A SWEEPING ROUNDUP. IT IS EXPECTED THAT TWO HAMLETS IN XUAN LOC DISTRICT, TWO HAMLETS AND ONE ENTIRE VILLAGE IN KIEM TAN DISTRICT, AND

5 FOUR HAMLETS IN DINH QUAN DISTRICT WILL BE LOST TO THE VC.

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3 IN ONE OF THE LATTER FOUR HAMLETS, THE OVERALL SECURITY

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SITUATION HAD IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY BUT LAX NIGHTTIME SECURITY STILL LEAVES THE HAMLET VULNERABLE. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN LATE SEPTEMBER 1972, THE GVN AND THE VC HAVE BEEN INTENSIFYING THEIR ACTIVITIES IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE IN PREPARATION FOR AN ANTICIPATED CEASE-FIRE. THE GVN HAS BEEN STRENGTHENING SECURITY AT THE VILLAGE AND HAMLET LEVEL AND EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO BRING THE REGIONAL FORCES (RF) AND PEOPLE'S SELF-DEFENSE FORCES (PSDF) UP TO FULL STRENGTH. THE POLICE HAVE BEEN PREPARING LISTS OF KNOWN AND SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF THE VC INFRASTRUCTURE (VCI). WHEN A CEASE-FIRE IS ANNOUNCED, THE POLICE

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PLAN TO ROUND UP ALL VCI SUSPECTS SO AS TO PREVENT THE ASSASSINATION OF GVN OFFICIALS AND OTHER ACTS OF TERRORISM. THE PROVINCE CHIEF HAS ASKED FOR THE CLOSE COOPERATION OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE PROVINCE. IN TURN, THE LEADERS OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES IN SAIGON HAVE ORDERED THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE TO IGNORE DIFFERENCES WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TO GIVE THE PROVINCE CHIEF MAXIMUM COOPERATION IN COUNTERING COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN THE DAYS PRECEDING A CEASE-FIRE. IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT THE FOLLOWING HAMLETS AND VILLAGES ALONG NATIONAL ROUTE 20 WILL BE LOST TO THE VC IN THE EVENT OF A CEASE-FIRE: XUAN LOC DISTRICT - HUNG NGHIA HAMLET IN HUNG LOC VILLAGE, AND TRAN HUNG DAO HAMLET IN DAU GIAY VILLAGE; KIEM TAN DISTRICT - LE LOI HAMLET IN GIA KIEM VILLAGE, LAT SONG HAMLET IN BINH LOC VILLAGE, AND ALL OF BEN NAM VILLAGE.

3. THE VC ARE ENGAGED IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. THEY ARE INTENSIFYING THEIR EFFORTS TO RECRUIT SYMPATHIZERS, PARTICULARLY IN VILLAGES ALONG NATIONAL ROUTE 20. THEY ARE ALSO PREPARING LISTS OF PRO-GVN VILLAGERS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS. SHORTLY BEFORE A CEASE-FIRE THE VC INTEND TO ASSASSINATE THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE NAMES APPEAR ON THE LIST. IN VILLAGES WHERE THE VC HAVE

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SUFFICIENT STRENGTH, LIBERATION FLAGS WILL BE RAISED.

5. ON 23 SEPTEMBER 1972 A MEETING WAS HELD OF ALL THE HIGH-RANKING GVN OFFICIALS OF THE DINH QUAN DISTRICT TO DISCUSS THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE DISTRICT. THE NEW DISTRICT CHIEF, LIEUTENANT COLONEL LE TAN P H A T, STATED THAT THERE LIKELY WOULD BE AN IN PLACE CEASE-FIRE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. IT WAS AGREED THAT IN THE EVENT OF A CEASE-FIRE FOUR DINH QUAN DISTRICT HAMLETS WOULD BE LOST TO THE VC. THE HAMLETS WERE: DOAN KET, LOI TAN AND TRUONG VAU PHUC OF DINH QUAN VILLAGE, AND PHU LAM HAMLET OF PHUONG THO VILLAGE. NO PLANS WERE DISCUSSED TO PROTECT THESE HAMLETS OTHER THAN AN EXHORTATION BY THE DISTRICT

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CHIEF TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY PROCEDURES AND INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE THE VCI.

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7. THE SECURITY OF LOI TAN HAMLET WAS STRENGTHENED RECENTLY WITH THE ADDITION OF ONE RF COMPANY. LOCAL OFFICIALS HAVE EXPANDED THE DEFENSE PERIMETER AND THE OUTLYING AREAS OF THE HAMLET ARE NOW BEING MORE AGGRESSIVELY PATROLLED. THE VC HAVE MADE NO ATTEMPTS TO PROPAGANDIZE OR SPREAD LEAFLETS IN THE LOI TAN HAMLET AREA SINCE EARLY SEPTEMBER. LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE NOW REMAINING OVERNIGHT IN THE HAMLET. IN SPITE OF THEIR EFFORTS, THE SECURITY OF LOI TAN HAMLET IS FAR FROM SATISFACTORY. FOR INSPECTION PURPOSES THE VILLAGE AND HAMLET CHIEFS CAN NOW MUSTER FULL, OR NEARLY FULL, COMPLEMENTS OF PSDF WHO ARE ADEQUATELY ARMED. HOWEVER, MANY OF THE LOCAL

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TROOPS PAY VILLAGE AND HAMLET CHIEFS TO HIRE SUBSTITUTES TO TAKE THEIR GUARD DUTY AT NIGHT. THE LOCAL CHIEFS SELDOM USE THE MONEY TO HIRE SUBSTITUTE TROOPS AND, AS A RESULT, GUARD FORCES AT NIGHT ARE AT ABOUT ONE-FIFTH OF THEIR REQUIRED STRENGTH.

8. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY USMACV USAID CORDS USIS (MR. LINCOLN ONLY) 7TH AIR FORCE USARV NAVFORV COMSEVENTHFLT CTF 77 525TH MI GP 7602ND AIG OSI AT SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC ARPAC PACFLT PACAF PARIS.

CLASSIFIED BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER.

EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF E.O. 11652.

EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5B (2). IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE DATE OF AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION.

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